

Questions from Reflections pp. 26-28

1. Define Periodization:
2. What was one of the earliest forms of historical periodization?
3. Why did people begin using the periodization of A.D., anno domini, and B.C., Before Christ?
4. What variant of this is used in our textbook?
5. _____, _____, and _____ are useful for societies that count in tens and use the zero.
6. Sometimes historians stretch the boundaries a bit, give a couple of examples:
7. What is another method of periodization other than “chronological”? _____ Give some examples:
8. Patriarchy appears to be a product of _____.
9. Think of your own life: how would you divide it into periods?

Questions for “The Urban Revolution and Civilization”

1. When did the “urban revolution” begin? _____
2. A hundred years ago, how did scholars describe ancient history?
3. The first reading in this section argues that cities created what?
4. Where were the earliest cities?
5. The ancient Egyptian empire depended less on _____ than on the power of the _____.
6. As you read the passages, make note of any similarities or differences between Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
7. Why do some historians think the “age of cities” is the beginning of history?
8. Define “prehistory”:
9. Give some examples of primary sources:

10. How are secondary sources different from primary?

Give an example of a secondary source.

Questions from Kevin Reilly: Cities and Civilization

1. How do you know THIS is a secondary source?

2. As you read this article on Cities and Civilizations make notes here to help you determine whether “civilization” (city life) was, on balance, beneficial, or harmful.

3. Also as you read, choose a sentence that appears specific enough to be based on a primary source and write it below.

4. As you read, find a sentence or two that **COULD NOT** possibly have been derived from a primary source and tell why you think this.

5. Where did the “urban revolution” or rise of cities first occur?

6. What were some of the technological innovations that helped make the urban revolution possible?

7. How was the “organizational revolution” carried out in these cities?

8. How were kings able to rule?

9. What is a difference between the beliefs of Mesopotamians and Egyptians regarding their rulers?

10. What were some of the new classes that developed in order to insure the respectability of the Warrior-Chieftan turned king?

11. What were some of the monumental buildings that were found in all the new cities that distinguished them from villages?

12. What is meant by the statement “civilized life is secure life”?

13. What are some of the “appeals of city life”?

14. What was used to help bridge the gaps between the great variety of ethnic groups and races that lived in the cities?

15. What were written symbols used for specifically?

16. What was the role of money in city life?

17. How did city life make the “eye” more important than in village life?

18. According to the text on p. 36, what does being “civilized” mean?

19. What type of impact did the “variety of city life” have on the commoner?

20. How was village life different in terms of relaying their message or history?

21. What did the written culture of cities teach? _____ What did this make possible?

22. How is village life more personal?

23. How did city life contribute the development of the “I” – or personality?

24. How does village life inhibit the development of “finding one’s self”?

25. How do class divisions impact the ability to focus on the development of personality?

26. What did class divisions do in the early city civilizations?

27. The _____ villagers preferred _____ to improvement.

Mesopotamian and Egyptian Civilizations:

Please note the similarities and differences between the two as you read pp. 38-41

28. What are the similarities between the two civilizations?

29. What accounts for the different types of civilizations that evolved? Be specific!

30. What was the enemy in Mesopotamia? _____ How did they feel towards the deities that ruled the waters?

31. What was the prime reason for Egypt’s lack of urbanization?

32. Why were things so different in Sumer, and later Mesopotamia?

33. What was the political answer to the economic problems of Sumer?

34. How did the religious practices of the Euphrates River Valley support city organization?

35. How were peasants in Sumer/Mesopotamia different than peasants in Egypt?

36. How were cities different in Egypt and Mesopotamia?

From the Epic of Gilgamesh: pp. 41-42

37. What is the Epic of Gilgamesh?

38. Who was Gilgamesh?

39. When was it written?

40. How is reading a primary source different than reading a secondary source?

We will skip several pages to the “Story of the Flood” on p. 47

41. What upset the God, Enlil? How does this relate to what we know about the development of cities in Mesopotamia?

42. What did the gods agree to do?

43. What did EA do?

44. What did the son of Ubara-Tutu do?

45. How is this story similar to the one found in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament of the Bible regarding Noah and the Flood?

46. How did the gods respond to the floods?

47. How is this tale different from the biblical account of the flood? (If you are not familiar with the biblical account – google it☺)

FROM HAMMURABI'S CODE pp. 51-54

48. Who was King Hammurabi?

49. What do law codes tell us about a society?

Read the selection pp: 51-54 and answer the following questions

50. What do these laws tell us about class division or social distinctions in Babylonian societies?

51. What we learn from these laws about the roles of women and men?

52. Which laws or punishments seem unusual today?

53. Why can't law codes be viewed as a precise reflection of society?